

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 AGR-10 HEW-06 EB-07

ARAE-00 /110 W

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P R 162002Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2429

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

DEA HDQS WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 0642

QUOTO FOR AMB. VANCE; S/NM FOR ERNST AND DUGSTAD;

ARA FOR DEP.ASST.SEC. LUERS; DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS COMMENT ON USG/GOM NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: MEXICO 574

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUING ITS ATTENTION TO THE NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AND FOLLOWING THE STORY OF THE PREVIOUS DAY ON THE "VANCE/OJEDA AGREEMENT" (REFTEL), EXCELSIOR ON JAN. 16 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL GENERALLY SUPPORTING USG & GOM COOPERATION AGAINST NARCOTICS BUT WITH SEVERAL CAVEATS. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIAL ALLOWED THAT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM HAS MADE THE JOINT GOM/USG DECISION TO LAUNCH A FORMAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST IT APPEAR QUITE LOGICAL. THE 12 MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE USG HAS INCREASED THE MEXICAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE
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FOR THIS PURPOSE, ALTHOUGH EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS

THE "AGREEMENT"(SIC)BETWEEN THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE DEPT. OF STATE TO USE SATELLITES TO DETECT POPPY FIELDS, WHICH LATER WOULD BE DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES.

3. BUT, THE EDITORIAL WARNED, A MEASURE OF THIS TYPE (APPRENTLY REFERRING TO THE USE OF HERBICIDES) SHOULD BE APPROVED BY EXPERTS OF ALL APPROPRIATE GOM AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT THE ECOLOGY AND CONDITIONS FOR HUMAN LIFE NOT SUFFER DAMAGE. THE END DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE USE OF ALL MEANS.

4. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE 30 U.S. POLICE (I.E., DEA AGENTS) ARE WORKING IN MEXICO--THE PROSECUTION OF CRIME IN MEXICO IS CONSTITUTIONALLY THE JOB OF THE FEDERAL ATTORNEYS--AND TO DEMAND MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN THE U.S., WHERE THE FINANCIERS AND CONSUMERS OF NARCOTICS ARE.

5. WHILE NOTING THAT SOME EVENTS AT TIMES APPEAR CONTRADICTORY, SUCH AS THE "LEGALIZATION OF SALE" (SIC) OF MARIJUANA IN SOME U.S. STATE, THE EDITORIAL ENDED BY CALLING FOR A SERIOUS AND REALLY EFFECTIVE EFFORT (INCLUDING IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE POOR FARMERS) TO STAMP OUT THE "VILE AND ELUSIVE" NARCOTICS INDUSTRY.

6. EDITORIAL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CARTOON ENTITLED "POPPY", WHICH SHOWED A LARGE POPPY PLANT, WITH ROOTS LABELLED "U.S. TRAFFICKERS." IN THE BACKGROUND, A MEXICAN FARMER IS ASKING SOMEONE WHO APPEARS TO BE SECRETARY KISSINGER, "WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR HERBICIDE ON THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM?"
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